

Minutes of the Meeting of

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on

THURSDAY 19th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the council chamber

Present

Chairman

Councillor M Royds

Councillors

Councillor R A Neal

Councillor T Aldred

Councillor D Powell

Councillor M Whitworth

Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor S Rhodes

Councillor L Burton

Councillor D Chorlton

Councillor J Whitehead

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

6 members of public were present; no members of the press were present.

### 105. To receive apologies and the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Cllr Blezard who had a physiotherapist appointment and Cllr Baron who was unwell.

1. To receive any Declarations of interest.

Cllr Neal declared a personal interest in item 10.

### To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2023, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Whitworth.

### Public Question Time.

A member of the public asked if the council could do anything about the 23 hours that the front desk is open for at Waterfoot Police Station. She asked if they could share some time, perhaps one or two hours, with Whitworth? Cllr Royds said that he will look into this and is happy to write regarding this. Cllr Powell suggested also writing to LCC regarding this.

A member of the public asked for an update with the cattle grid at Lobden. Cllr Royds explained that there had been delays at Land Registry, but that WTC had received notification this week that everything had been approved. Cllr Royds explained that WTC were now awaiting confirmation from the legal department at RBC that they will transfer the grant.

A member of the public asked for clarification on who owns the land where the cattle grid is located. Cllr Royds confirmed that the land is still owned by the Lord of the Manor and the WTC have taken on the liability for the cattle grid.

### Planning Applications for consideration and comment:

1. 2023/0466 *Householder – Delgrove Lodge, 6 Healey Grove, Whitworth, Rochdale, OL12 8RX. Remove existing raised decking to rear of house and replace with new raised decking, at a lower level on adjoining boundary line.*

It was resolved that council have no objections to this planning application. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

1. To discuss Whitworth Town Council commenting on an appeal against a planning enforcement notice, reference APP/B2355/C/23/3327155 regarding the land at Hallfold, Whitworth.

Cllr Olaolu stated that the applicant sought planning permission after the commencement and completion of the development via a retrospective planning application. She stated that for the avoidance of doubt the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 55 defines the meaning of development and new development as the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in use of any buildings or other land. Cllr Olaolu stated that the applicant has developed the land and changed its use and that the applicant has built numerous additional buildings which has increased the footprint on site by over 50%. She stated all of this development work has been carried out within a designated Greenbelt area of Whitworth, which is therefore classed as inappropriate development and no very special circumstances have been demonstrated which would outweigh the resulting harm from this development. Cllr Olaolu considered that the development of these buildings and the use of inappropriate materials also impacts harmfully on the visual amenity which is further evidenced by the numerous articles of domestic related furniture, tyres and play equipment on site. Cllr Olaolu also stated that since RBC’s decision to reject planning application 2023/0240 at least one additional building has been erected on site further increasing the footprint on site and clearly evidences further inappropriate development. Cllr Neal gave a history of the land, the developments on the site and previous court cases regarding this piece of land.

It was resolved that Council agree with the decision taken by RBC in relation to planning enforcement notice APP/B2355/C/23/3327155 regarding the land at Hallfold, Whitworth. This was moved by Cllr Olaolu and seconded by Cllr Neal.

1. To receive and note the Minutes of the Finance Monitoring Committee meeting held on 10 October 2023.

It was resolved that Council receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Monitoring Committee on 10th October 2023. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Chorlton.

1. To receive and, if appropriate, accept the six-month outturn presented by the clerk. C

It was resolved that council receive, notes and approves the six-month outturn present by the clerk. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

1. To undertake a biennial review of the following Whitworth Town Council policies: Safeguarding, Volunteering, Records Management, Health and Safety, Grievance Procedure, Freedom of Information, Complaints Procedure, Civic Protocol, Gifts and Hospitality, Donations, Equal Opportunities, Discipline Procedure, Recruitment, Social Media, Breastfeeding, Community Engagement Strategy, Training and Development and Lone Working (see attached).

It was resolved that council accept and adopt these policies. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitehead.

\*\*\* Cllr Neal left the chamber \*\*\*

1. To consider a donation to the Women of Whitworth Project.

It was resolved that council donate £250 to the Women of Whitworth Project. This was moved by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Chorlton.

\*\*\* Cllr Neal returned to the chamber \*\*\*

1. To consider a donation to Festival Park Bowling team.

Cllr Whitehead stated that whilst she agreed with the fencing, she considered that RBC should pay for it as it is on their land. Councillors discussed this. It was resolved that council donate £500 to Festival Park Bowling team. This was moved by Cllr Whithead and seconded by Cllr Powell.

1. To discuss Whitworth Town Council providing seating at the Multi Use Games Area at Masseycroft.

Cllr Olaolu stated that she was opposed to this, and Cllr Chorlton reminded members that there had previously been seating in the area, but it had been vandalised. Cllr Chorlton suggested using stone from the quarry for any proposed seating. Cllr Neal explained that this request had originated from a recent Whitworth Multi Agency meeting and had been requested by PCSO Kirkbright. Cllr Powell stated that if the seating was vandal proof, he would support this request. It was resolved that a working party be set up to investigate funding sources and appropriate materials from which to make the seating. The working party will bring back recommendations to council. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Chorlton. Cllr Olaolu requested that it be minuted that she opposed this.

### To receive the report of the Town Mayor (not for discussion).

The Mayor reported that the Mayoress had attended a solo outing at Lobden Golf Club on Sunday 24th November and the following Sunday, the Mayor and Mayoress had both enjoyed a superb concert by Whitworth and Healey Band at the Jimmy Grogan Memorial Concert at The Ashcroft. They both very much enjoyed the brilliant performance from the Academy Band and the Youth band. The Mayor stated that by attending the concert, that had marked five consecutive Sundays of engagements. The Mayor also expressed his delight in attending his second invitation of his mayoral year from WAMDS, for the production of “Once”. He felt the quality of production was out of this world and featured a beautiful a cappella from the performers. The Mayor stated that his awards night will be held a week on Saturday, and he had been delighted to present nomination certificates across Whitworth. Donations can be accepted from anyone who cannot attend, half of the monies raised will be donated to Save The Pool funds. He also stated that the most important event of the civic calendar is coming up, Remembrance Sunday, and he will be honoured to attend this as Mayor.

### The Chairman or Clerk to answer questions from Councillors (Standing Orders 16 & 24 – 27, for information only).

Cllr Whitehead asked if Council would support her sending a letter to Jigsaw Homes and RBC regarding the new homes at Railway Close as she feels that the terms “access to cycle path” has been misinterpreted. Cllr Royds replied that he was happy to support this.

Cllr Burton informed councillors that she has been in communication with officers at RBC regarding the poor maintenance at Whitworth Square and that she is meeting with them there in the next few weeks.

1. To receive reports from delegates and representatives to outside organisations (for information only).

Cllr Neal reported that the LCC and LALC AGM is on the 4th November and that he has been invited to the House of Lords on 23rd November to discuss Town and Parish Councils. He stated that he will try to secure some funding for the leisure centre whilst there.

Cllr Whitworth explained that Whitworth Playgroup are having some banking issues at present but was hopeful these would be resolved soon. He also reported that the Sports Council are planning to hold an event at Leavengreave on a quarterly basis and that they are open to suggestions for these. Cllr Whitworth also reminded councillors that Whitworth Museum have offered a tour of the museum to councillors, and he will organise suitable dates for this.

Cllr Royds reported that Healey Dell Management Committee had met recently to establish an initial plan and that they will be holding a more formal meeting in November.

1. To receive and, if appropriate adopt the financial statements presented by the Clerk.

It was resolved that Council receive and adopt the financial statements presented by the Clerk. This was moved by Councillor Whitehead and seconded by Councillor Neal.

### To authorise the signing of orders for payment: schedule 6, 2023-2024.

The clerk explained the Schedule of Accounts Payable in the form of Report 6, 2023-2024 and asked for approval. It was resolved that approval be given for the Schedule of Accounts payable. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Rhodes.

1. To carry out the internal audit.

Members carried out an internal audit of bank statements, invoices and Schedule of Accounts Payable, balances against bank statements and receipts and petty cash. All was found to be in order.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44pm.